

Washington, DC — Today, Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) issued the following statement regarding the conference report to prohibit the procedure of late-term abortions.

“One of my fundamental principles is that government should not interfere with basic freedoms for individuals and their families. A basic freedom is the health of women, which necessarily includes reproductive health choices.

“This legislation threatens that freedom by inappropriately intervening in the decision-making of patients and their doctors. This legislation goes beyond restricting a specific procedure; it ignores the needs of real women and their families. This procedure has long been accepted as medically sound and is at times the only practice available to protect a woman’s life and her ability to safely bear a healthy baby in the future.

“When we first debated this legislation, I heard from real families who would be devastated by this amendment. Sadly, nothing has changed. This legislation would still devastate real families.

“The broad language of this bill is likely to further erode a woman’s right to make basic reproductive choices. No one can predict what this Supreme Court will do, let alone a future one. This language would fly in the face of a previous ruling against Nebraska’s legislation and could be a vehicle for judicial reinterpretation that would further restrict reproductive freedom. This legislation is part of an insidious, ongoing assault to erode reproductive freedoms and would perpetuate a trend, as shocking as it is unfortunate, of Congress imposing its own theology on our citizens, regardless of other people’s own strongly held beliefs and individual needs.

“Earlier this Congress, the Republican Leadership’s theological clash with science brought us a bill that made it illegal to use potentially life-saving therapies to help people who are crippled or dying with degenerative and traumatic diseases, such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s. The bill didn’t just prohibit scientific research; it denied suffering patients the benefits of research performed anywhere else in the world. In their zeal to make a point, the Republican Leadership placed their beliefs above our loved ones’ suffering.

“People who oppose abortion should not have one. Nothing would make me happier than for every woman to have the knowledge, well-being, medical care, and good fortune so that she would never need to consider having an abortion. Until such a day comes, it is wrong to

prevent a woman's doctor from offering professional skills that will provide her with the safest and most appropriate medical care for her and her family."